



Inter-American Foundation

Fellowship Program

No. 33

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) is an independent agency of the U.S. government that funds the self-help initiatives of the organized poor in Latin America and the Caribbean. To complement its effort, the IAF is reinstating its fellowship support for dissertation work by candidates for Ph.D. degrees from U.S. universities.

IAF's fellowships are intended to help build a community of professionals and scholars knowledgeable about grassroots development. Fellows examine the efforts of the rural and urban poor to improve their lives, their methods of organization and production, and the policies and programs designed to alleviate their poverty. The IAF disseminates research findings of its fellows to a broad audience concerned with development.

Fellowship Awards

Fellowship awards provide round-trip international transportation to the field research site and a \$2,000 monthly stipend covering a maximum period of 12 months between June 1 of the award year and the following May 31. For research beyond 12 months, candidates must obtain funds from other sources. Fellows will be required to attend a "mid-year" meeting to discuss their progress with members of the IAF's review committee. The meeting time will be announced; travel and attendance will be funded by the IAF. Fellows are also required to submit to the IAF, within six months of completing their grant period, a final report on their research of between 1,250 and 2,500 words.

General Eligibility

- * Fellowships are available to candidates for Ph.D. degrees in the social sciences, physical sciences, technical fields and the professions as related to grassroots development issues.
- * The applicant must be a degree candidate enrolled in a U.S. university and must have completed all course requirements and qualifying or comprehensive examinations for the doctoral degree before initiating IAF-funded field research.
- * The competition is open to U.S. citizens and citizens of independent Latin American and Caribbean countries (except Cuba).
- * IAF fellowships fund field research in independent Latin American and Caribbean countries (except Cuba). Candidates conducting field research in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or the Netherlands Antilles, for example, are not eligible.
- * Applicants must speak and read the language of the country in which they plan to conduct research.

Awards Criteria

Fellowship awards are based on both development and scholarly criteria. Proposals should offer a practical orientation to field-based information. Only in exceptional cases will the IAF support proposals reflecting a primary interest in macro questions of politics and economics as they relate to the environment of the poor. Because the Fellowship Program complements IAF's support for grassroots development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, preference is given to those candidates whose careers or research projects are related to topics of greatest interest to the IAF. Currently, priority topics include the following:

- * Organizations promoting grassroots development among poor and disadvantaged people in Latin America and Caribbean;
- * the financial sustainability and independence of development organizations;
- * trends affecting historically excluded groups, such as African descendants, indigenous people, women and young people;
- * transnational development;
- * the role of corporate social responsibility in grassroots development;
- * the impact of grassroots development activities on the quality of life of the poor in such areas as sustainable agriculture and natural resource management; urban development approaches; training, technical assistance and technology transfer; and marketing and small enterprise development.

Application instructions and materials will be posted at
www.iaf.gov